

Paul introducing pro-life, pro-America amendments to Foreign Ops Act Measures will stop Corporate Welfare and taxpayer-funded abortion/family planning FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, July 22, 1997, or after WASHINGTON, DC -- This week, the US House will be considering the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. As part of that legislation, US Representative Ron Paul (R-Surfside, Texas) will be offering two important amendments: one dealing with US sovereignty, the other with abortion, and both with constitutionality and cost to taxpayers. A vote could come as early as Wednesday afternoon.

The first amendment prohibits any funds from being sent overseas to be used for abortions, family planning services, or population control activities. US taxpayers right now spend approximately \$380 million funding international "family planning" services.

"Nowhere in the Constitution is the federal government authorized to take the money of US citizens to fund - directly or indirectly - population control, abortion services, or 'family planning,'" said Paul. "If individuals or private organizations want to use their money to fund overseas population control, pro-abortion lobbying and other activities, then that is their right. Under the doctrine of Enumerated Powers, it is unconstitutional and wholly inappropriate for us to force our taxpayers to subsidize these overseas services and activities."

Supporting this amendment are such groups as Concerned Women for America, Eagle Forum, the Republican National Coalition for Life, American Life League, the Family Research Council, and others.

The second amendment he is introducing will end much of the corporate welfare, and make a dent in the taxpayer subsidization of China, Mexico and many other nations. The amendment will reduce to zero the funds for the "Export-Import Bank," the "Overseas Private Investment," and the "Trade Development Agency." The zeroing out could save taxpayers approximately \$700 million.

Paul said that it is through those agencies that taxpayers money is used to "prop-up communist regimes and subsidize US corporations at the same time." Mexico and China are the two countries which benefit most from the money distributed by these three agencies.

"I am a staunch supporter of free trade and of the rights of Americans to do business with whomever they please, but I am completely opposed to our tax dollars being given to American corporations so they can ship US jobs overseas, often propping up communistic and dictatorial governments," said Paul. "Further, taxpayer-funded subsidies give those countries' economies a boost. US taxpayers should not be subsidizing the purchases of Beijing or Mexico, even if the purchases are from US corporations."

This is an unconstitutional use of tax dollars, according to Paul. "The Constitution does not give Congress, even remotely, the right or authority to take the money of hard working Americans and give it to either foreign governments or to big US corporations."